Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The places most badly affected are Ochenturuttu and Edavanakkad. These were attended to at first. The conditions prevailing in the north and south of Cochin are more or less identical.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Protective measures are being taken in the north of Cochin. There is no sign of that in the south of Cochin. Whether any experiment has been made with reference to the south of Cochin, I want to know.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think the Press Communique refers to certain experiments which are being conducted.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Let me know whether any experiments were made by the Government with reference to places south of Cochin.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The experiments are constructing groynes, investigation, etc.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know who is conducting the enquiry?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is being made by the P. W. D. We have been enquiring about this question for a very long time.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I want to know for how many years the matter was engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This has been engaging our attention for the last 20 years.

418. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the Government aware that thousands of families in these villages have been ruined and rendered homeless within living memory by the gradual working of this silent tragedy?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The statement is not quite correct. The erosion has, of course, spelt disaster among some people living on the coast. Government are now permitting reclamation of selected patches of backwater, and these reclamations are expected to compensate to a certain extent the loss due to erosion.

419. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government kindly assign reasons for not taking effective remedial measures till now in such a vital matter as this and, further pleased to state whether it contemplates to take any action in the future, and if so, when?

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Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The adoption of protective measures is attended with many serious practical difficulties. Government are still enquiring into the matter, and would do everything possible to meet the situation.

The average dietary charges in the Hospitals.

420. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the average dietary charges per patient per day in each of the hospitals of the State in Vrischigam 1101?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The subjoined statement gives the information required. (*Vide Appendix VII.*)

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—What is the difference between the dietary charges of the patients in the different Hospitals due to? In the General Hospital, Ernakulam, it is 4 as.; and in the Chalakkudi Hospital it is 1 anna 9 pies.

President.—Would you kindly explain, Dr. Verghese?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—In the General Hospital, Ernakulam, cases of a serious nature which require liberal diet such as milk, etc., are attended to. Major operations of a severe nature and serious medical cases are admitted here which necessitate extra nourishment. This contributes to the increase of the dietary charges.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Are not such cases attended to in the other hospitals?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Such cases are rarely attended to on such a large scale in other hospitals.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Please let me know what are such great cases?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—They are mostly serious cases of major operations and compliated cases which have mostly defied all available ordinary treatment.

President.—No other hospital performs such major operations.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No. Not on such a scale as here.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In the Trichur Hospital, where such major operations are attended to, the charge is only 2 as. 11 ps. whereas in the General Hospital, Ernakulam, it is 4 as. How do you account for the difference?

President.—Because the number of such cases are more in the Ernakulam General Hospital.

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